

Claims:

1. A system for customizing a product via a computer network, comprising:

a plurality of component maker servers, each of which provides component information of a component made by a corresponding component maker on the computer network, wherein the component is used for the product;

a manufacturer server providing a site on the computer network, wherein the site provides a page containing a plurality of selectable items corresponding to component information of respective ones of components made by different component makers; and

a customer terminal connected to the site via the computer network to present the page, wherein the product is customized by selectively determining the selectable items on the page.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the manufacturer server accesses each of the component maker servers to store component information of a component made by the corresponding component maker.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein, when identifying data of a component which is not stored in

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the manufacturer server is received from the customer terminal, the manufacturer server uses the identifying data to access a corresponding component maker server and stores component information of that component.

5 4. The system according to claim 2, wherein the manufacturer server comprises a component server for retrievably storing component information, wherein the component server is updated when new component information is received from a component maker server.

10 5. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a banking institution on the computer network, for transferring an amount paid for the product from a customer's account to a manufacturer's account in response to a transfer request received from the manufacturer.

15 6. A method for customizing a product via a computer network, comprising the steps of:
acquiring component information of components made by different component makers from component maker servers thereof;

20 publishing a home page on the computer network, wherein the home page contains a plurality of selectable items corresponding to respective ones of components made by the different component makers; and

customizing the product by using components selected from the selectable items depending on an instruction received from a customer via the computer network.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the component information of components are updated when acquiring new component information from the component maker servers.

8. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

when receiving identifying data of a component which has never been acquired from the customer, accessing a component maker server identified by the identifying data to acquire component information of the component.

9. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

at a banking institution on the computer network, transferring an amount paid for the product from a customer's account to a manufacturer's account.

10. A method for customizing a product on a home page published on a computer network, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of selectable items corresponding to respective ones of components made by different component makers on the home page, wherein component information

of the components have been acquired from servers of the different component makers;

customizing the product depending on which one of the selectable items is clicked in a customer's terminal; and

5 requesting payment for the product from a banking institution depending on account information received from the customer's terminal.

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